JOINING OF FARMERS IN CORPORATE SECTORS

3302. SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH MANN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether cooperative movement which is the life-line of the farmers has been ruined by bureaucracy which is instrumental in taking over of industrial sector my non-farming urban capitals which has succeded in turning the rural economy as a source of raw material in this industry;

(b) whether farmers would be allowed to join corporate sector as an alternative to the cooperatives for processing their produce and whether Govt. would support the farmers in establishing their agro-processing units for them to derive directly the maximum benefits of value-addition; and

(c) if so, what benefits would be provided to encourage the farmers in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM) : (a) No Sir. The Cooperative movement in India has grown in stature and extent of coverage over the years. Cooperatives control production of about 60 per cent of sugar, are handling about 20 per cent of production of milk and 37 per cent of Jute and possess about 11 per cent of total spindleages in spinning mills in the country processing sizeable quantities of oilseeds.

(b) and (c) There is no bar for the farmers to join the corporate sector. A number of big firms in the corporate sector have already come up in this field. Ministry of Food Processing Industries is implementing various developmental plan schemes which seek to provide assistance to Public Sector, Joint Sector, Cooperative Sector, etc., for setting up development of food processing industries in the country. Most of the food processing industries have been delicenced as per the Industrial policy of Govt. of India notified on 25-7-91 and Food Processing Industries hvae been put on the priority list. Various fiscal concessions have also been made available to these industries by the Government.

CULTIVATION OF VEGETABLES IN ANDHRA PRADESH

3303. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any district in Andhra Pradesh have been surveyed and selected for encouraging cultivation of vegetables for export purposes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government proposes to encourage export of vgetables; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM) : (a) and (b) Government of India have not conducted survey in any district in Andhra Pradesh for encouraging cultivation of vegetables for export purposes.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Government of India through APEDA has taken the following steps to encourage the export of vegetables :

(i) Formulated a number of schemes to encourage the growers/exporters to take financial assistance as per the Statement enclosed. (*See* below)

(ii) Encouraging the exports of vegetables in reefer sea containers to neighbouring countries particularly to gulf region.